
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

Larry D. Cunningham, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4977, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: lcunning@usgs.gov

Dwayne Penn (Data), (703) 648-7972

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

TUNGSTEN IN JANUARY 1997

Based upon net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder produced from hydrogen reduced metal powder, the U.S. industrial tungsten activity for January 1997 increased by almost 60% compared with that of December 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. U.S. industrial tungsten activity for the first month of 1997 was about 7% lower than for the same period of 1996. Reported consumption of tungsten in all end-use products in January 1997 was not available and will be published in a subsequent issue.

December 1996 trade data are included in this issue. Trade data for January 1997 were unavailable at the time of publication and will appear in a subsequent issue.

The combined wolframite and scheelite prices from Metal Bulletin were:

Low \$43/mtu WO_3 (\$39.01/stu WO_3), February 1-28, 1997

High \$55/mtu WO_3 (\$49.90/stu WO_3), February 1-28, 1997

Update

Vancouver-based North American Tungsten reportedly agreed in principal to purchase all assets of Canada Tungsten for a reported C\$5 million. Canada Tungsten is owned by Toronto's Aur Resources Inc. Canada Tungsten's assets include the CanTung Mine in the Northwest Territories, the MacTung property near CanTung, and the Hemerdon Mine in England. In addition, North American Tungsten would take ownership of Canada Tungsten's ammonium paratungstate production equipment at Bishop, CA, currently being leased to Avocet Ventures Inc.¹

¹Ryan's Notes. Buyer for Canada Tungsten's Assets. Feb. 24, 1997, p. 2.

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate			Reported scrap consumption	Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/		Net produc- tion 3/	Reported consumption 4/	Stocks, end of period 5/
1996: p/							
January	479	310	486	261	718	993	1,220
February	475	162	438	186	933	1,000	1,360
March	504	155	559	223	845	957	1,440
April	580	148	694	236	787	973	1,510
May	415	403	654	200	303	1,070	1,550
June	551	365	721	199	473	947	1,560
July	506	383	633	273	866	935	1,780
August	415	183	695	250	525	1,110	1,640
September	422	521	601	134	524	836	1,550
October	342	181	803	207	633	835	1,490
November	413	510	669	140	502	788	1,450
December	318	144	569	142	422	838	1,360
January-December	5,420	3,470	XX	2,450	7,530	11,300	XX
1997:							
January	345	NA	676	194	669	NA	1,420

p/ Preliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Reported by consumers.

3/ Net production of tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, chemicals, and other products.

4/ Includes data on tungsten carbide powder from secondary sources.

5/ Reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS OF
AMMONIUM PARATUNGSTATE, BY MONTH 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Production	Consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/
1996: p/			
January	565	598	370
February	W	630	366
March	556	782	357
April	W	742	319
May	W	619	299
June	W	531	391
July	677	639	W
August	592	673	576
September	551	572	570
October	539	866	507
November	563	597	522
December	402	475	513
January-December	4,450 3/	7,720	XX
1997:			
January	541	653	585

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Producers and consumers.

3/ Excludes four months of withheld data.

TABLE 3
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product	Net production 2/			Stocks at end of period	
	1996 p/	1997		1997	
		January	Year to date	1996 p/	January
Metal powder	3,720	287	287	815	864
Tungsten carbide powder (made from metal powder)	3,810	382	382	413	435
Cast and crystalline carbide powder; other	W	--	--	W	W
Chemicals	W	W	W	129	123
Total	7,530	669	669	1,360	1,420

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Lumps, grains, powders	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1996:								
October	181	128	23	31	41	146	550	XX
November	510	92	76	7	2030	289	3000	XX
December:								
Australia	--	--	--	3	--	--	3	6
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	27
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	4
Bolivia	30	--	--	--	--	--	30	512
Canada	--	--	--	1	1	(3/)	2	68
China	--	200	--	(3/)	2,020	178	2,400	8,230
Czech Republic	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	10
France	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	23
Germany	--	28	--	1	16	1	46	255
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	7	(3/)	7	220
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	6
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	10
Israel	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	12
Japan	--	18	--	2	--	3	23	92
Kazakstan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	126
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	47
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	208
Peru	15	--	--	--	--	--	15	367
Portugal	46	--	--	--	--	--	46	518
Russia	54	--	24	--	--	1	79	1,870
Sweden	--	--	--	9	--	--	9	84
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	7
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	40	(3/)	40	465
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Total	144	246	24	16	2,090	188	2,710	XX
Total, year to date	3,470	1,580	535	404	4,430	2,820	XX	13,200

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungsten oxide, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in December 1996 totaled 147 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder e/	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1996:							
October	(3/)	41	7	117	32	197	XX
November	(3/)	--	16	70	17	103	XX
December:							
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Australia	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	(3/)	13
Austria	--	--	--	9	--	9	39
Bahamas	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Belgium	--	24	--	(3/)	(3/)	24	89
Brazil	--	--	1	(3/)	--	1	10
Canada	--	--	3	35	3	41	445
China	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	23
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	--	4
France	--	--	--	(3/)	1	1	68
Germany	--	--	5	38	3	46	449
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	2
Honduras	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Hong Kong	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	--	(3/)	8
India	--	--	--	--	3	3	21
Ireland	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	3
Israel	--	--	--	1	(3/)	1	48
Italy	--	--	--	4	1	5	117
Japan	--	--	1	5	2	8	127
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(3/)	1	1	2	14
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	17
Mexico	--	--	(3/)	1	3	4	39
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	--	25
New Zealand	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	11
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Saudi Arabia	--	--	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	1
Singapore	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	1	36
South Africa	--	--	--	5	--	5	30
Spain	--	--	--	--	1	1	11
Sweden	--	--	(3/)	11	(3/)	12	117
Switzerland	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	--	(3/)	9
Taiwan	--	--	--	3	1	4	48
United Kingdom	(3/)	--	1	4	1	6	130
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	3
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Total	(3/)	24	11	118	21	175	XX
Total, year to date	17	150	240	1,290	289	XX	1,990

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in December 1996 totaled 27 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.